

The Office Action indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. §121: Group I, Claims 1-21, drawn to a tower crane; and Group II, Claims 22-24, drawn to a method of climbing a crane. In response, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-21, with traverse. Applicants thank the Examiner for issuing an action on the merits for both groups of claims in order to expedite prosecution. As a result of Applicant's election, Applicants respectfully defer response to any objections/rejections for claims 22-24 until an Office Action is issued on a divisional application, assuming Applicants decide to file a divisional application.

The Office Action objected to various informalities, each of which are addressed below in the same order as raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each objection be withdrawn. Applicants, however, in answering theses asserted informalities are not admitting that the subject matter of the informalities are limitations in one or more claims of the present application.

a. The Office Action objected to the following: "It is unclear as to what would be the function of the guide rails on outer frame 42, see page 6, line 14. Page 7, line 9, also has similar guide rails disclosed for the platform on the upper basket." Applicants respectfully request that in light of the present amendments to the specification, specifically by changing "guide" to --guard-- on pages 6 and 7, the objection be withdrawn.

b. The Office Action objected to the following: "On page 6, lines 16-17, it is unclear as to how the applicant is considering the vertical beams as attached to each other." Applicants respectfully submit that page 6, lines 16-17 describe, and Fig. 4 illustrates, that the vertical beams are attached to each other by the rectangular upper frame 44, the rectangular center frame 46 and the rectangular lower frame 48. In any event, Applicants have amended the specification on page 6, lines 16-17, to include the phrase --by the rectangular upper frame 44, the rectangular center frame 46 and the rectangular lower frame 48--.

c. The Office Action objected to the following: "The last three lines of page 8 discuss a yoke 88 as being shown in figures 8, 9 and 10. However, these drawings do not have a reference numeral 88." As indicated above, Applicants have amended the specification on page 8, line 20 to include a reference to Fig. 1 as showing yoke 88 and have submitted herewith a Letter With Proposed Drawing Changes amending Figs. 8 and 9 by adding numeral --88--.

d. The Office Action objected to the following: "The last two lines of page 8 have a main plate 90 with a through hole 92. However the structure shown in figures 8 and 9 with reference numeral 92 does not appear as a through hole." Applicants have submitted herewith a Letter With Proposed Drawing Changes amending Fig. 8 by adding dashed lines to illustrate through hole 92. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

e. The Office Action objected the following: "The first line of page 9 of the specification discusses plates 96 and ribs 98 which are not labeled in the drawings." As indicated above, Applicants have submitted herewith a Letter With Proposed Drawing Changes amending Fig. 10 by adding numeral --98-- and, thus, respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

f. The Office Action objected to the following: "Page 10, lines 16 and 17 have the climbing frame 60 and upper basket 16 raised through the tower 10. How are these considered as raised 'through' the tower? This is not understood. The first line of page 11 also has the lifting frame as raised 'through' the tower." Applicants have amended the specification on pages 10 and 11 by changing "through" to --around--. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn

g. The Office Action objected to the following: "In drawing figure 1, it is unclear how the climbing frame 60 can be shown as above the platform frame 61, when the specification at page 7, lines 16-17, and the drawing figure 12 has the platform frames attached to the opposite sides of the climbing frames." Applicants respectfully submit that Fig. 1 only includes a reference

numeral for climbing frame 60 and is not intended to also illustrate platform frames 61. Figures 4 and 12, however, depict both climbing frame 60 and platform frames 61. As the Examiner correctly notes, platform frames 61 are attached to the opposite sides of climbing frame 60 which is clearly shown in Fig. 12 and described in the specification on page 7, lines 15-18.

h. The Office Action objected to the following: "Drawing figure 4 has the reference numeral 61 for labeling an element which is above climbing frame 60, when the specification, page 7, lines 16 and 17, and drawing figure 12, have the platform frame 61 as mounted to two opposite sides of the climbing frame 60." Fig. 4, which illustrates a more detailed view of upper basket 16, depicts numerous elements including climbing frame 60 and platform frames 61. Fig. 12 illustrates in further detail the climbing frame 60 and platform frames 61. The specification on page 7, lines 15-18 describes climbing frame 60 "surround[ing] the tower 10 ... [and a] pair of platform frames 61 ... attached to the opposite sides of the climbing frame 60" In light of this explanation, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

i. The Office Action objected to the following: "Drawing figure 8 has reference numeral 94 which is not in the specification." As a result, Applicants have amended the specification on page 8, line 21 by inserting --94-- after "recesses" and respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action also objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter according to 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP §608.01(o). Specifically, the Office Action stated that: (a) the specification fails to discuss the at least three clamps recited in claim 3; (b) the specification fails to discuss the three yokes of claim 6; and (c) the specification fails to discuss the frame locker and basket locker of claim 11.

"The mere fact that a term or phrase used in the claim has no antecedent basis in the specification disclosure does not mean, necessarily, that the term or phrase is indefinite. There is

no requirement that the words in the claim must match those used in the specification disclosure." M.P.E.P. 2173.05(e). Applicants respectfully request that objections (a) and (b) be withdrawn as a result of the amendment made to claims 3 and 6 hereby. In particular, claim 3 and claim 6 were amended by changing "at least three" to --a plurality of--. Further, in response to objection (c), Applicants respectfully submit that "a frame locker" and "a basket locker", recited in claim 11, are described in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 5-12 and from page 10, line 20 to page 11, line 12. Specifically, the specification refers to climbing dogs 70, attached to frame 60, and basket dogs 80 as locking devices.

Additionally, the Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a) because the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Particularly, the Office stated that "the three clamps of claim 3, the three yokes and the threaded rod of claim 6, the frame locker and basket locker of claim 11, and the concrete structure with holes of claim 21, must be shown, or the features must be canceled from the claims."

Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings regarding the "three clamps" and the "three yokes" be withdrawn in light of the present amendments to claims 3 and 6, respectively. Applicants also respectfully request that the objection to the "frame locker" and the "basket locker" be withdrawn since the "frame locker" and the "basket locker" are illustrated in the drawings, for instance, Fig. 4 illustrates climbing dogs 70 and basket dogs 80 as the locking devices. Further, Applicants have added Fig. 7B to illustrate treaded rod 71 and have added Fig. 14 to illustrate "a plurality of support holes disposed on columns of the concrete structure with each support hole receiving a respective outrigger foot", as recited in claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these objections also be withdrawn.

The specification was objected to under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to provide an adequate description of the claimed invention. The Office Action enumerated four

objections (a-d), each of which are addressed below in the same order as raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each objection be withdrawn. Applicants, however, in answering these objections are not admitting that the subject matter of the objections are limitations in one or more claims of the present application.

a. The Office Action objected to the following: "The structure of clamps 88 is not understood. The description at the bottom of page 8 through the top of page 9 is not understood. The structure discussed cannot be correlated with drawings figures 8-10."

Applicants have hereby amended Figs. 7A-10 and relevant portions of the specification, and have added Fig. 7B. As a result of the amendment, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

b. The Office Action objected to the following: "How is applicant considering the device as having three clamps, as recited in claim 3? Are there three clamps at each outrigger, or three clamps at each basket? Where are the three clamps discussed in the specification."

Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn in light of the present amendment to claim 3.

c. The Office Action objected to the following: "The structures of dogs 70 and dogs 80 are not understood. How do the dogs rotate? They have upper and lower pins, as shown in Fig. 5B. Neither of the pins are disclosed as removable. An element with two parallel pins cannot rotate. It is also unclear as to how removing locking pin 76 permits the dog to pivot. Note that the locking pin 76 extends through the pin attached to the handle 74 and does not appear to have a locking function." Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn as a result of Applicants' amendments to Figs. 5A and 5B and the specification on page 8, lines 8-9.

d. The Office Action objected to the following: "What are the frame locker and basket locker of claim 11? These terms are not found in the specification."

"The mere fact that a term or phrase used in the claim has no antecedent basis in the specification disclosure does not mean, necessarily, that the term or phrase is indefinite. There is no requirement that the words in the claim must match those used in the specification disclosure." M.P.E.P. 2173.05(e).

In any event, Applicants respectfully submit that "a frame locker" and "a basket locker", recited in claim 11, are described in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 5-12 and from page 10, line 20 to page 11, line 12. Specifically, the specification refers to climbing dogs 70, attached to frame 60, and basket dogs 80 as locking devices.

The Office Action also rejected claims 1-24 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, because the dog structures are inoperative, and a climbing crane with inoperative dogs cannot function.

Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn as a result of Applicants' amendments to Figs. 5A and 5B and the specification on page 8, lines 8-9.

Further, the Office Action rejected claims 7-14 and 16-18 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regard as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action stated the following:

a. "In claim 7, it is unclear as to how applicant is considering the lower frame (36) as having a larger diameter than the upper frame (30). Note that page 6, lines 6-8 has the horizontal arms (40) as attached to the lower frame 36, not part of the lower frame. Claim 16 has a similar limitation."

Applicants respectfully submit that the "lower frame" recited in claims 7 and 16 refers to outer frame 42. The specifications states on page 6, lines 10-11, that "[a]s shown in FIG. 3, the outriggers 24 are also attached to a rectangular outer frame 42 whose diameter is larger than that

of the upper frame 30." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

b. "In claim 7 it is unclear as to which arms are being claimed as the plurality of arms in line 4. The first part of the limitation has the arms coupling the upper frame (30) to the lower frame (36) as to be discussing arms 32. However the second part of the limitation has the arms extending to a support stub, as to be discussing arms 34, 38 or 40."

Applicant respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn based on Applicants' preceding response to b. and "[a]s shown in FIG. 3, the outriggers 24 are ... attached to a rectangular outer frame 42". See page 6, lines 10-11. Further, the specification on page 5, line 21 to page 6, line 3, reads "An outer sloped arm 34 including a pair of symmetric frames (one frame being hidden behind the other) for each side extends from the upper frame 30 and are attached pivotally to the respective outrigger 24. Similarly, an inner sloped arm 38 including a pair of symmetric frames (one frame being hidden behind the other) for each side extends from the upper frame 30 and are attached to the respective outrigger 24. The sloped arms 34 and 38 extend toward the respective support stubs 28 to transfer the lateral loads to the vertical columns."

c. "In claim 8, it is unclear as to how the support stubs of line 4 are different from the support stubs of claim 1."

Applicants respectfully submit that at least Fig. 1, and the respective portions of the specification describing the same, show both plurality of support stubs, one plurality of support stubs associated with the lower basket and the other plurality of support stubs (in claim 8) associated with the upper basket.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 15 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1,173,524 ("GB '524"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection at least for the following reasons.

GB '524 appears to relate to a tower crane that can be heightened or shortened by adding an element or removing an element, respectively, at the summit of a tower. At the base of the tower, the tower rests on a traveling or fixed platform or the tower can be set into a building. [Page 1, lines 8-13; Page 2, lines 2-5].

Applicants respectfully submit that GB '524 does not teach "a plurality of support stubs with each support stub attached to a respective vertical column of a structure, wherein the basket rests on the support stubs", as recited in independent claim 1, and "a plurality of first support stubs with each first support stub mounted to a respective vertical column of a structure, wherein each first outrigger foot rests on a respective first support stub", as recited in independent claim 15. The Office Action, however, indicates that GB '524 with reference to numerals 20 and 42 teaches the above limitations. Applicants respectfully disagree. In GB '524, stop 20 is located on the tower and prevents movement of lock 18. [Page 2, lines 85-90]. Similarly, angle-iron 41 appears to be part of tower element 2, as shown at least in Figs. 6 and 7. Further, GB '524 simply describes the tower as resting on a traveling or fixed platform or the tower can be set into a building. GB '524 is devoid of any details on how the tower can be set into a building. GB '524 does not teach, or even suggest, a plurality of support stubs mounted/attached "to a respective vertical column of a structure", as recited in claims 1 and 15. Similarly, GB '524 does not teach "a plurality of support holes disposed on columns of a concrete structure ...", as recited in independent claim 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 15 and 21 are patentable over GB '524.

As a result of Applicant's election, Applicants respectfully defer response to any objections/rejections for claims 22-24 until an Office Action is issued on a divisional application, assuming Applicants decide to file a divisional application.

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8-10 depend from and further limit claim 1 and, for at least the reasons stated above in connection with claim 1, are patentable over GB '524.

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 15-18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1,456,435 ("GB '435"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection at least for the following reasons.

GB '435 appears to teach a crane having a column. The column is carried on a base which is seated on a foundation, as can be seen in Fig. 1. [Page 2, lines 29-30].

Applicants respectfully submit that GB '435 does not teach "a plurality of support stubs with each support stub attached to a respective vertical column of a structure, wherein the basket rests on the support stubs", as recited in independent claim 1, "a plurality of first support stubs with each first support stub mounted to a respective vertical column of a structure, wherein each first outrigger foot rests on a respective first support stub", as recited in independent claim 15, and "a plurality of lower support stubs with each lower support stub mounted to a respective vertical column of a structure", as recited in independent claim 20. Further, GB '524 does not teach "a plurality of support holes disposed on columns of a concrete structure", as recited in independent claim 21. Rather, the column (or tower) taught by GB '435 is carried on a base which is seated on a foundation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 15, 20 and 21 are patentable over GB '435.

Claims 2-5, 7-10 and claims 16-18 depend from and further limit claims 1 and 15, respectively and, for at least the reasons stated above in connection with claims 1 and 15, are patentable over GB '435.

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 23 12 509 ("DE '509"). DE '509 is a foreign patent written in a foreign language. Accordingly, Applicants are unable to fully respond to the rejection of independent claims 19-21 since Applicants cannot read the specification of DE '509. Applicants respectfully request that a translation or an equivalent version of the patent in the English language be forwarded to Applicants. M.P.E.P §901.05(d).

Based simply on reviewing the figures of DE '509 and also based on the amendments to the specification and drawings of the present application, Applicants respectfully submit that DE '509 does not appear to teach at least the following: "a plurality of first support stubs with each first support stub mounted to a respective vertical column of a structure, as recited in independent claim 19, "a plurality of lower support stubs with each lower support stub mounted to a respective vertical column of a structure", as recited in independent claim 20, and "a plurality of support holes disposed on columns of a concrete structure", as recited in independent claim 21.


This communication is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and every effort has been made to place the application in condition for allowance. The claims, in view of the foregoing explanation, are believed to be patentable over the prior art, and a favorable Office Action is hereby earnestly solicited.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Examiner is requested to telephone the number provided below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment to 37 C.F.R. §1.121. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 26, 2002

By: 
Frank M. Gasparo
Registration No. 44,700
Baker & McKenzie
805 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Telephone (212) 751-5700
Facsimile (212) 759-9133

VERSION WITH CHANGES MARKED-UP

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 7A is a plan view of the support stubs and the outrigger foot members resting on the support stubs according to the present invention. --

Please add a paragraph after line 15 on page 4, as the following paragraph:

-- FIG. 7B is a side view of the support stubs and the outrigger foot members resting on the support stubs according to the present invention. --

Please add a paragraph after line 2 on page 5, as the following paragraph:

-- FIG. 14 illustrates a plurality of support holes disposed on columns. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, one end of each horizontal arm 40 is connected to the respective outrigger 24 and the other end is pivotally (both horizontally and vertically) attached to the lower frame 36. The diagonal braces 41 welded at their midpoints are attached to the corners of the lower frame 36 for strength. The various pivots are used to absorb the lateral load of the lifting device 14 when in operation. As shown in FIG. 3, the outriggers 24 are also attached to a rectangular outer frame 42 whose diameter is larger than that of the upper frame 30.

To allow workers to walk on the basket 18 when performing a climbing (jumping) operation, a platform (not shown) between the inner frame 36 and the outer frame 42 can be provided over the horizontal arms 40. Guide Guard rails (not shown) on the outer frame 42 can also be provided. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 4 is a side view of the upper basket 16. The basket 16 includes a rectangular upper frame 44, a rectangular center frame 46, a rectangular lower frame 48 and vertical beams 50 which surround the tower 10 and are attached to each other by the rectangular upper frame 44, the rectangular center frame 46 and the rectangular lower frame 48. Braces 52 attached to the vertical beams 50 and the lower frame 48 provide rigidity to the upper basket 16. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- One end of each horizontal arm 58 is connected to the respective outrigger 24 and the other end is pivotally (both horizontally and vertically) attached to the lower frame 48. The outriggers 24 are attached to an outer frame (not shown) similar to 42 as shown in FIG. 3. To allow workers to walk on the basket 16 when performing a jumping operation, a platform and guide guard rails (not shown) can also be provided. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A locking device such as a pair of dogs 70 (only one shown) are opposedly attached to the climbing frame 60 as shown in FIG. 5A and 5B. The dog 70 is rotatable with respect to its

housing 72. The dog 70 is shown in a locked position resting on a stop plate 78 with a locking pin 76 inserted through pin 51, as shown in FIG. 5A, to lock the dog 70 to its housing 72. To move the dog 70 to an unlocked position, the pin 76 is and the pin 51 are removed and the dog 70 is tilted back using a handle 74 until the dog rests on a stop plate 80. A second pair of dogs 80 (only one shown) are attached to the opposite sides of the lower frame 48. The two pairs of dogs 70, 80 are used to assist in the climbing operation as will be explained later herein. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- When the tower 10 is not being raised, the foot members 25 of the outriggers 24 are extended and are resting on the support stubs 28. Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, the stub 28 is either shop welded or bolted to the respective vertical column 262. The stub 28 as shown has two stub members 82 disposed at right angle to each other. The two stub members 82 are respectively attached to the web and flange of the vertical column 262. Each stub member 82 includes a back plate 827 attached to the column 26, a web 84, and top and bottom flanges 86. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- To further secure the tower crane 12 to the lower basket 18, the foot members 25 are clamped using a clamp such as a yoke 88 as shown in FIGS. 1, 8, 9 and 10. The yoke 88 includes a main plate 90 having a through hole 92 and recesses 94 on both ends for receiving left and right plates 96. Each plate 96 has an angled rod or rib 98 welded to the top of the plate at a 45 degree angle. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- To clamp the foot member 25, a threaded bar (~~not shown~~) 71 having a head on one end is inserted into an opening 100 from the top, as shown in Fig. 7b, and the through hole 92 of the main plate 90 disposed underneath the foot member 25. The left and right plates 96 are adjusted by sliding them into or out of the main plate 90 until the angled rods 98 are underneath the top flanges 86 of the two stub member 82. Then a nut is threaded and secures the foot member 25 to the stub members 82. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- It is to be noted also that the clamps 88 are generally not necessary because the lower and upper baskets 16, 18 with their outriggers 24 provide sufficient lateral support to prevent any uplift of the lifting device 12 during operation of the crane 12. The clamps 88 are provided to secure the crane 142 only under unexpectedly extreme conditions and to sometimes satisfy certain safety regulations. In fact, the lower basket 18 provides most of the lateral support that not even the upper basket 16 may be needed for proper operation. This principle is similar to that of a free-standing crane on a truck where the truck has extended outriggers resting on the ground. Just as the extended outriggers provide lateral support for the free standing crane, the lower basket 18 with its extended outriggers 24 provide sufficient lateral support to prevent the crane 12 from tipping over. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As discussed above, the weight of the lifting device 14, tower 10 and crane 12 are principally distributed on the vertical columns 22. The turning moment or the lateral load of the crane 12 is also principally transferred through the sloped arms 34, 38, 54, 56 to the vertical columns 22. As can be appreciated by persons of ordinary skill in the art, these features provide several important advantages. Because the lateral and vertical loads are distributed on the vertical columns 22, there is no need to reinforce the horizontal beams or the floors to accommodate the crane 12. Because the entire tower 10 moves up as the floors are added, no tower sections need to be added. Nor is there a need for a reinforced foundation and tie rods to prevent the tower crane 12 from tipping prior to the time the crane 12 is first jumped. Further, no chucking is needed to brace the tower 10 against the horizontal slabs or beams since the lateral load is transferred as principally a vertical force to the columns. As can be appreciated, the lifting device 14 of the present invention provides substantial cost savings over the prior art tower cranes. For a typical 45 story steel building the savings in steel cost and labor alone are estimated to be in the half a million to one million dollar range. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The principles of the present invention can be employed in concrete buildings as well, as shown in Fig. 14. Instead of supporting stubs 28, openings 1405 on the cement columns 1410 or vertical bearing walls, preferably at each corner, are made as the floors are raised and the foot members 25 are inserted into the openings 1405 rather than extended over the stubs 28 so that the crane load and the lateral load is principally taken by the columns 1410. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A climbing operation of the present invention will now be explained with reference to FIGS. 1, 4 and 13. The climbing operation is done in two steps. First, using the climbing frame 60, the upper basket 16 is raised ~~through~~ around the tower 10 and seated upon the support stubs 28 at the desired level. Then using the upper basket 16 as the support, the lower basket 18, along with the tower 10, is raised to its desired level. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The climbing operation is shown in more detail in FIGS. 13A to 13E. FIG. 13A shows the lifting device 14 and tower 10 prior to the climbing operation. At this point, the climbing dogs 70 are in their unlocked position and the basket dogs 80 are in the locked position. Then, the cylinders 68 extend their pistons 69 to raise the lifting frame 60 ~~through~~ around the tower 10 as shown in FIG. 13B. When the pistons 69 are appropriately extended, the climbing dogs 70 are rotated into the locked position and are disposed on top of the horizontal brace 62 while the basket dogs 80 are rotated into the unlocked position if they are locked. With the climbing dogs 70 in the locked position and the basket dogs 80 in the unlocked position, the outriggers 24 retract their foot members away from the stubs 28 to prepare the upper basket 16 for climbing. The cylinders 68 then retract the pistons 69 thus raising the upper basket 16 toward the climbing frame 60 as shown in FIG. 13C. In an alternative embodiment, the outriggers 24 can retract their foot members at the same time the upper basket 16 is raised. When the pistons 69 are appropriately retracted, the basket dogs 80 are rotated into the locked position and are disposed

on top of the horizontal brace 62. The pistons 69 are then slightly extended until the basket dogs 80 take the load of the upper basket 16. --

In the claims:

Please amend claims 3 and 6 as follows.

--3. (Amended) The tower crane device according to claim 2, further comprising ~~at least~~
~~three~~ a plurality of clamps each operable to secure the basket to the respective support stub.

6. (Amended) The tower crane device according to claim 5, further comprising ~~at least~~
~~three~~ a plurality of yokes each operable to secure the respective foot member to the respective support stub, wherein each of the yoke plurality of yokes includes:

a plate positioned between the first and second stub members and under the flanges of the first and second stub members; and

a threaded rod inserted through the foot member and the plate to secure the respective foot member on the flanges of the support stub.--